

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Cheyenne County Courthouse

Other name/site number: _____

2. Location

212 East Washington Street

not for publication

St. Francis

vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Cheyenne code 023 zip code 67756

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally X statewide _____ locally.

(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Richard D. Parkin
Signature of certifying official

3/5/02
Date

Kansas State Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

_____ entered in the National Register.

_____ See continuation sheet

_____ determined eligible for the National Register.

_____ See continuation sheet

_____ determined not eligible for the National Register.

_____ removed from the National Register.

_____ other, (explain:)

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Property Name Cheyenne County CourthouseCounty and State Cheyenne County, KansasPage 2

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a
multiple property listing.)

No. of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register:

Historic County Courthouses of Kansas0

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT: County CourthouseGOVERNMENT: County Courthouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical RevivalFoundation STONE: LimestoneWalls BRICKSTONE: LimestoneRoof OTHER: Composite MaterialOther

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more
continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1924/1925-50

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Thomas W. Williamson & Company, Architect

Thomas D. Howard, Contractor

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Property Name Cheyenne County CourthouseCounty and State Cheyenne County, KansasPage 4**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing
(36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Specify repository:

Library and Archives Division, Kansas
State Historical Society; Topeka, Kansas

Record # _____

10. Geographical DataAcreage of property <1

UTM References

1	<u>1/4</u>	<u>2/6/0/2/6/0</u>	<u>4/4/0/6/2/8/0</u>	3	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	4	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared Byname/title Dana Cloud and Sally F. Schwenkorganization Historic Preservation Services, LLC date April 30, 2000street & number 818 Grand Boulevard, Suite 1150 telephone (816) 221-5133city or town Kansas City state Missouri zip code 64106**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Cheyenne Countystreet & number 212 East Washington Street telephone (785)332-8800city or town St. Francis state KS zip code 67756

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 7 Page 1

Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Cheyenne County Courthouse
St. Francis, Kansas

DESCRIPTION

The Cheyenne County Courthouse is a Classical Revival style,¹ four-story masonry structure that occupies the south portion of a full square block to the east of the Cheyenne, Kansas historic central business district [*Figure 1: City Plan of St. Francis, Kansas*]. The courthouse shares the block with a playground and a small portable shed located north of the courthouse. Located to the west of the courthouse is street parking. The courthouse is rectangular in plan and measures 100 feet wide by 84 feet deep by 35 feet high [*Figure 2: Existing Site Plan*]. Its primary elevation faces south onto Washington Street. The symmetrical structure has a buff colored brick wall surface and a dressed limestone raised foundation. The design also incorporates limestone windowsills, and a limestone belt course, entry pavilion, cornice and parapet. The courthouse has a flat roof. The decorative parapet screens the fourth-floor jail. Except for the window sash and exterior door replacements, this property retains a high degree of its original architectural integrity and retains nearly all of its original character-defining exterior and interior features [*Photographs #2 and #3*]. Erected in 1924 as a county courthouse, the structure continues to serve as a county courthouse.

The building has nine bays on the north and south façades and five bays on the east and west façades [*Photographs #2 and #3*]. The exterior is smooth, buff colored brick laid in running bond with dressed limestone detailing. Brick soldier coursing accents the window lintels, and dressed limestone highlights the foundation, belt course, and second- and third-floor windowsills. Dressed limestone also defines the decorative masonry features such as the entrance pavilion, arched door heads, decorative keystones, cornice, and parapet balustrade [*Photograph #1*].

New paired and tripartite, metal-clad sash windows with transom panels replaced the original paired and tripartite, one-over-one light, wood frame sashes with glazed transoms [*Figure 3: c.1970 Photograph of Courthouse Showing Original Windows and Doors*]. Sliding, single-glazed sashes now compose the majority of the paired window configurations. Various other sash configurations such as paired, one-over-one light sashes and tripartite, one-over-one light sashes with randomly inserted panels characterize the remaining windows [*Photographs #2 and #3*].

The primary façade features a slightly projecting pavilion with six quarter-engaged Tuscan columns on pedestals supporting a plain entablature inscribed with "Cheyenne County." Positioned between the four central columns are single doors with semi-circular door heads and ornamental keystones. Metal frame doors with sidelights replace the original wood doors, and opaque transom panels replace original glazed transoms [*Figure 3: c.1970 Photograph of Courthouse Showing Original Windows and Doors*]. A grand staircase, flanked with decorative torches [*Photograph #4*], rises from the ground level to an intermediate level between the ground and first floors. A limestone clock encasement, which has had its timepiece removed, rests upon the entablature along the parapet balustrade [*Photograph #1*].

The floor plan and use of the courthouse are typical of the majority of Kansas courthouses built during the same period. A grand staircase at the south side of the building and a smaller side staircase at the west side of the building provide access to the ground floor and the second floor. Each floor has a main east-west corridor. The ground floor has a grade-level entrance and a new handicapped accessible entrance on the west façade

¹ Also called Neo-Classical Revival

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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Cheyenne County Courthouse
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[*Photograph #3*]. The first floor houses the county clerk, register of deeds, and county commissioner offices. The second floor houses a courtroom, judge's chambers, jury room, and sheriff's office. The third floor, which is screened from exterior view by the decorative parapet balustrade, houses jail cells and storage rooms [*Figures 4-7: Existing Floor Plans*].

The interior finishes are also typical of the majority of Kansas courthouses built during the same period. Interior finishes consist of mosaic floor tiles, plaster walls and ceilings, oak doors and trim, marble stair treads and risers, and decorative iron balustrades at the staircases [*Photographs #5, #6, #7, #8 and #9*]. Original light fixtures and sconces also remain intact [*Photographs #10 and #11*].

The Cheyenne County Courthouse retains a high degree of architectural integrity. While metal-clad windows and doors replace the original wood frame windows and doors, the overall exterior appearance is not compromised as the remaining exterior features, such as the masonry, projecting pavilion, Tuscan columns, and roofline, are intact. All of the interior features of public spaces such as the mosaic floor tiles, plaster walls and ceilings, oak doors and trim, marble stair treads and risers, light fixtures, and decorative iron staircase balustrades are also intact. The floor plan of each floor is intact as well. Overall, the Cheyenne County Courthouse not only has excellent architectural integrity, it is also in excellent condition as a result of the care and attention given to the maintenance of the structure by a succession of county commissioners.

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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Cheyenne County Courthouse
St. Francis, Kansas

PHOTO LOG

Photographer: Dana Cloud
Date of Photographs: December 10, 1999
Location of Negatives: Kansas State Historical Society
Cultural Resources Division
6425 S. W. 6th Avenue
Topeka, Kansas 66615-1099

Photo #	Subject	Camera Direction
1.	Detail of South (Main) Entrance	North
2.	Exterior of Courthouse	Northwest
3.	Exterior of Courthouse	Southeast
4.	Detail of Torchere at South (Main) Entrance	Northeast
5.	Main First Floor Corridor	West
6.	Detail of Typical Wood Door	South
7.	Detail of Starting Newell of Main Staircase	East
8.	Main Staircase from First to Second Floor	Northeast
9.	Detail of Latticed Grille at Stair Landing	South
10.	Main Courtroom on Second Floor	Southeast
11.	Sconce in Main Courtroom	South

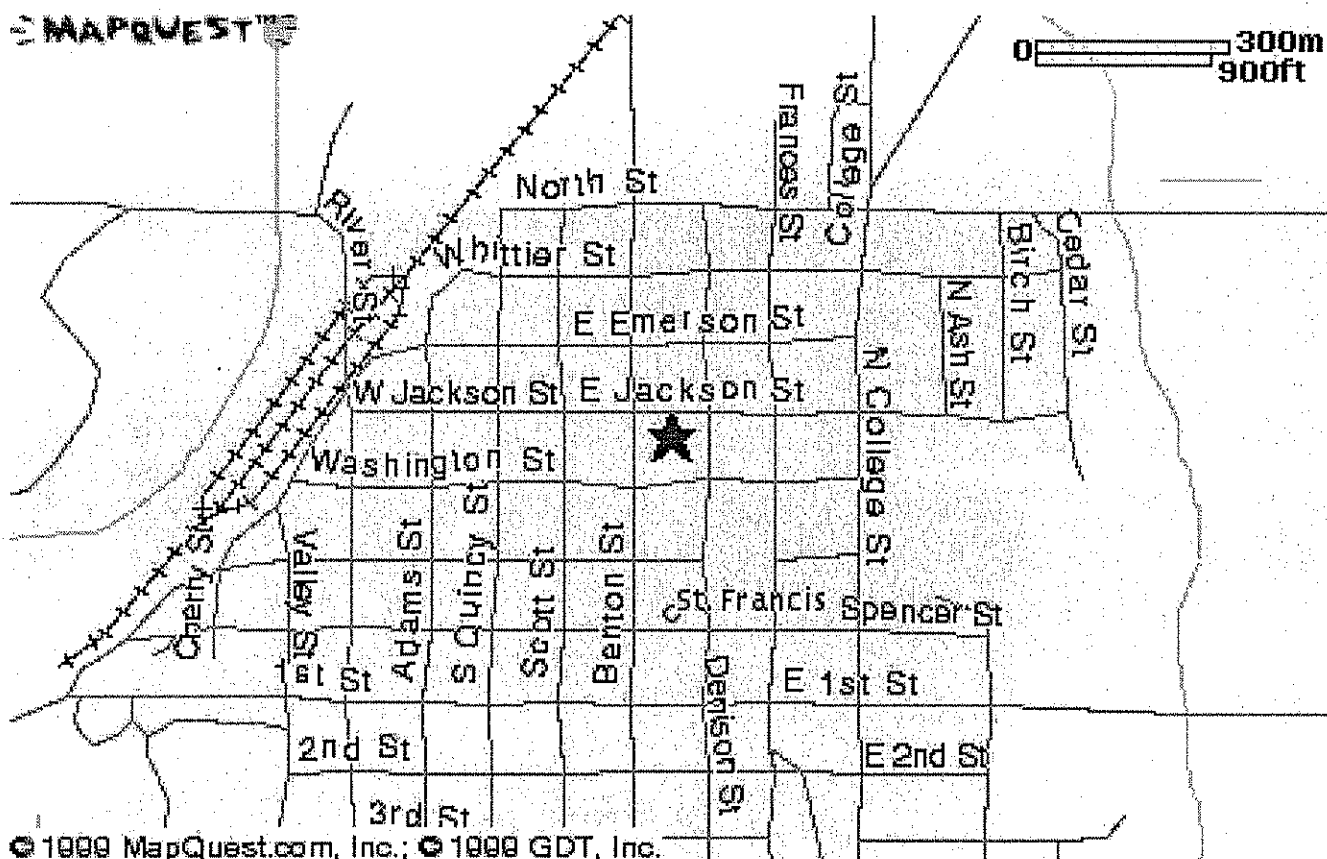
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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Cheyenne County Courthouse
St. Francis, Kansas

Figure 1: City Plan of St. Francis, Kansas



© 1999 MapQuest.com, Inc.; © 1999 GDT, Inc.

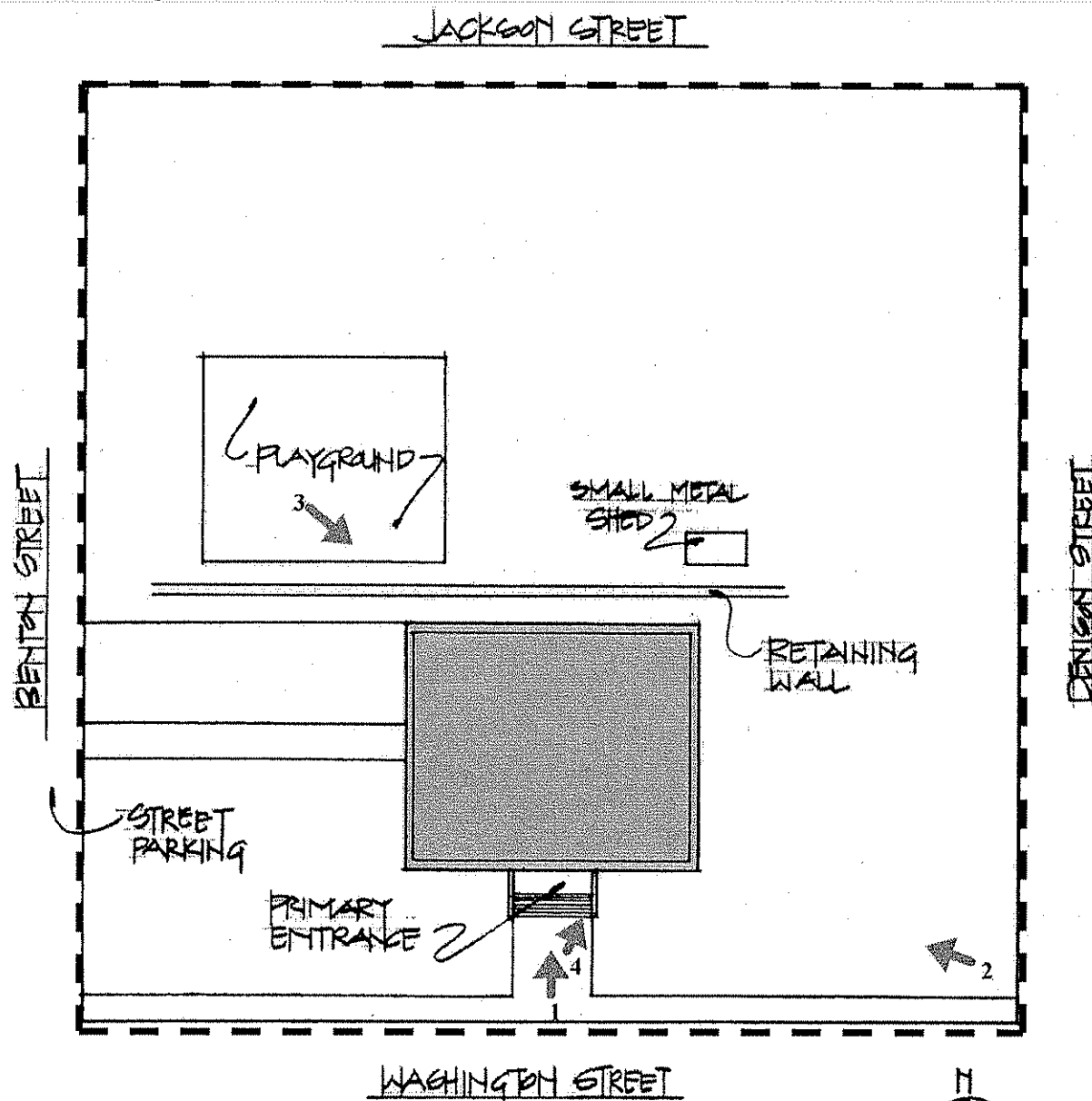
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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Cheyenne County Courthouse
St. Francis, Kansas

Figure 2: Existing Site Plan



Approximate Scale: 1"=60'-0"
--- Boundary Line

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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Cheyenne County Courthouse
St. Francis, Kansas

Figure 3: c.1970 Photograph of Courthouse Showing Original Windows and Doors



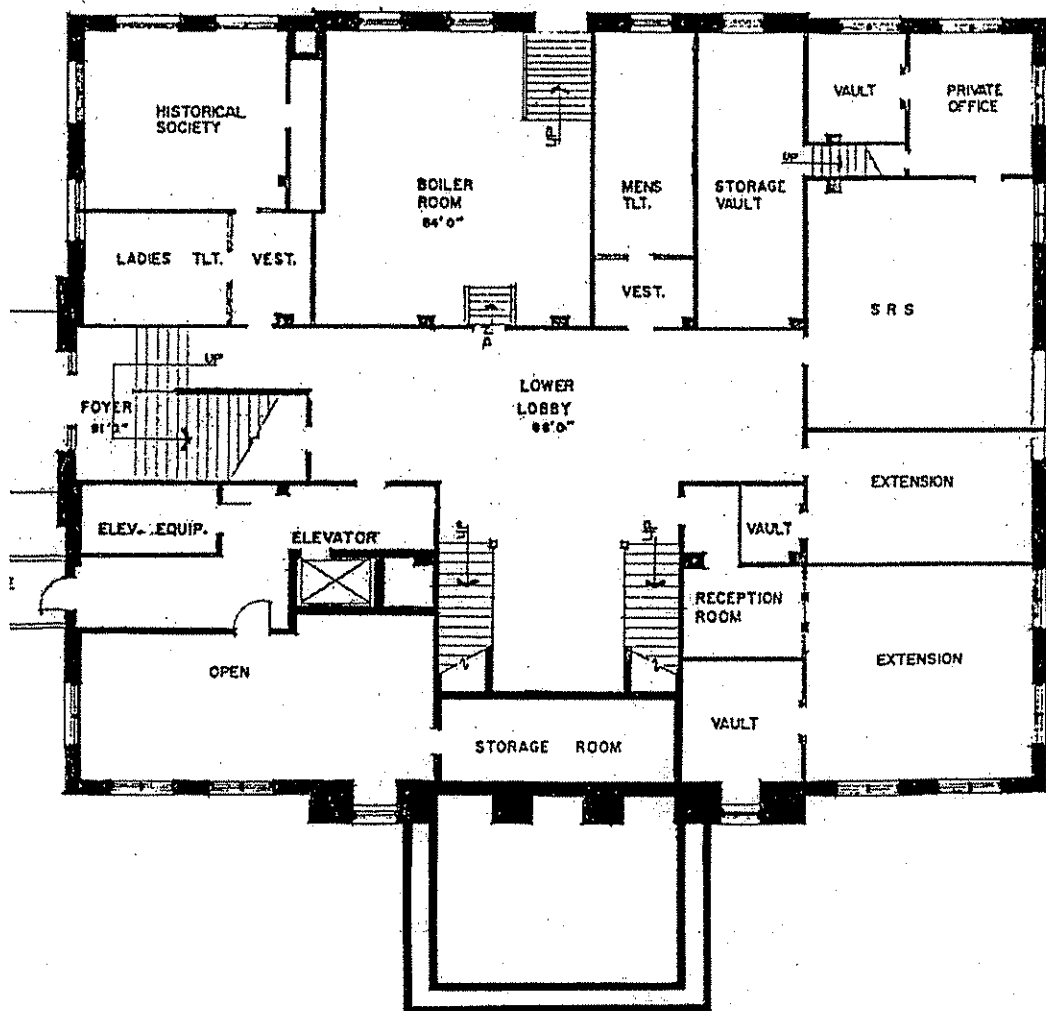
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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Cheyenne County Courthouse
St. Francis, Kansas

Figure 4: Existing Ground Floor Plan



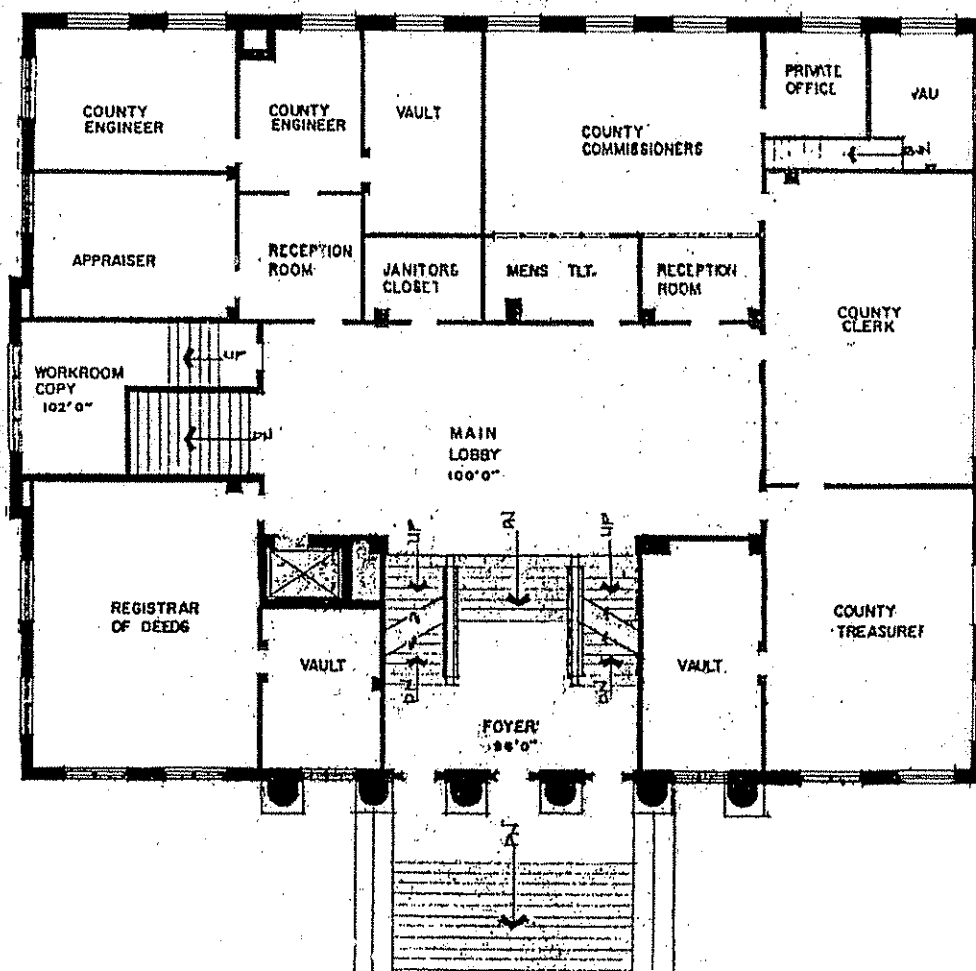
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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Cheyenne County Courthouse
St. Francis, Kansas

Figure 5: Existing First Floor Plan



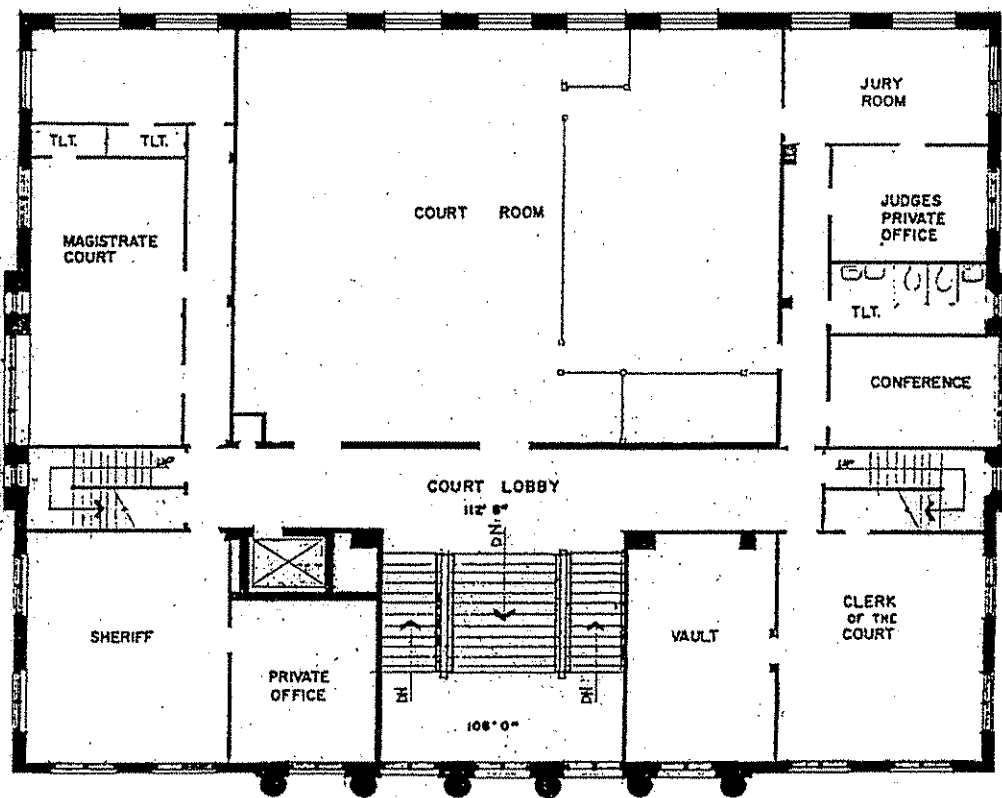
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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Cheyenne County Courthouse
St. Francis, Kansas

Figure 6: Existing Second Floor Plan



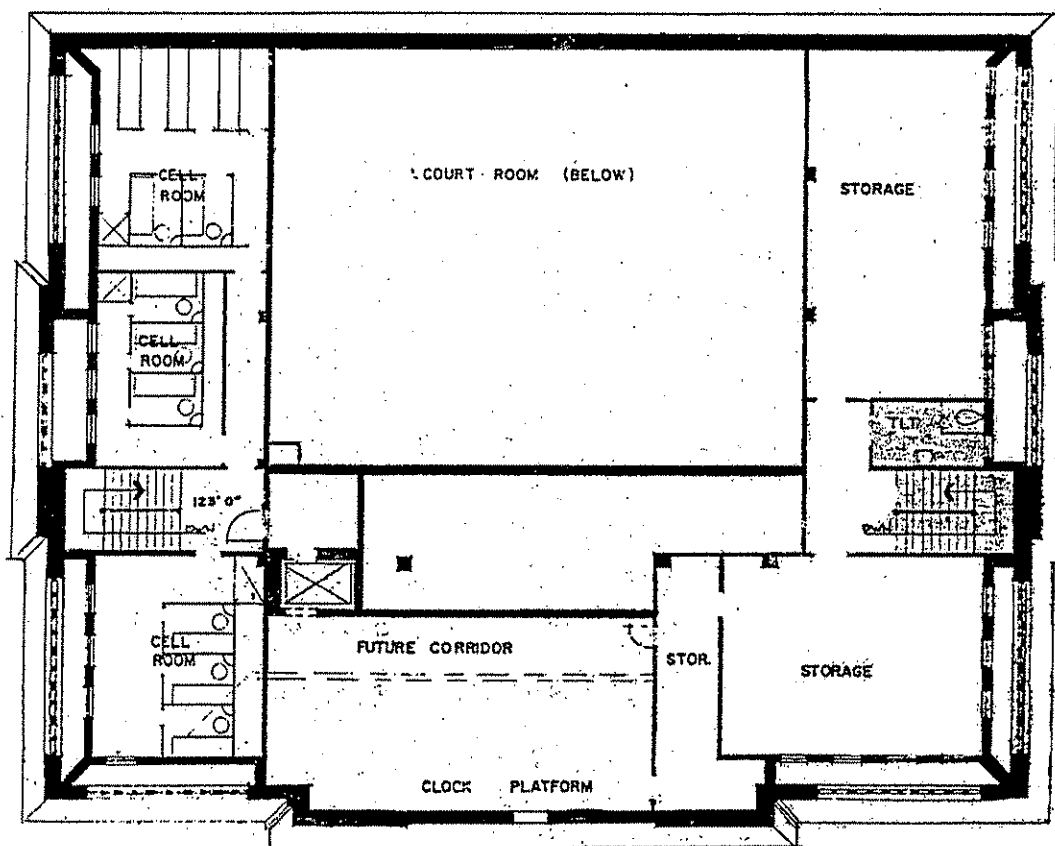
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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Cheyenne County Courthouse
St. Francis, Kansas

Figure 7: Existing Third Floor Plan



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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Cheyenne County Courthouse
St. Francis, Kansas

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cheyenne County Courthouse, erected in 1924–1925, is historically significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of **POLITICS/GOVERNMENT** and under Criterion C in the area of **ARCHITECTURE** for its associations with the development of county courthouses in Kansas and with Thomas W. Williamson, an influential Kansas architect who designed and supervised the construction of a number of Kansas county courthouses in the early twentieth century. The historic significance of the Cheyenne County Courthouse is based on its associations with the history and development of Kansas county courthouses that is documented in the Multiple Property Form, **“Historic County Courthouses of Kansas.”** In particular, the property has direct associations to the historic contexts established in the Multiple Property Form—**“The Role of the County Courthouse in Kansas Communities 1856–1956,” “Twentieth Century Kansas County Courthouses and Their Changing Use: 1900–1956,”** and the **“Architecture of Kansas Courthouses 1861–1956.”** The property’s association with the evolution of Kansas County Courthouses and their design dates to its construction in 1924–1925 and continues to 2000, the arbitrary 50-year cutoff date for determining eligibility of National Register properties. The property reflects typical courthouse plans, siting, and restrained Classical Revival style designs found in Kansas after the end of World War I and before the onset of the Great Depression. In addition to its ability to physically convey associations with these contexts, this property enjoys a high degree of integrity and is a representative example of its property type. It exemplifies the work of a master courthouse architect noted for his Kansas courthouse designs. The property type and larger historic contexts relating to the significance of the Cheyenne County Courthouse are fully documented in the Multiple Property Form. The following commentary expands upon these larger contextual themes as they specifically relate to the Cheyenne County Courthouse and documents the property’s significance.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE

Located in the extreme northwest corner of Kansas, with Colorado to the immediate west and Nebraska to the immediate north, Cheyenne County has two incorporated towns (St. Francis and Bird City) and one unincorporated town (Wheeler). Highway 36 runs east and west through the middle of the county and State Road 27 jogs diagonally north and south. The majority of the county’s residents live in St. Francis and Bird City.¹

Organized in 1886 with the creation of the Board of Commissioners appointed by the Governor of Kansas, the board consisted of three men: J. M. Ketcham, W.W. McKay and J. F. Murray. Their first responsibility was the establishment of three voting precincts for the May 15, 1886 election that filled the county’s first positions of county clerk, treasurer, probate judge, attorney, clerk of district court, register of deeds, sheriff, superintendent of public instruction, surveyor, coroner, and three new commissioners.

¹ Cheyenne County, Economic Development, *State of Kansas, Department of Commerce, Kansas Small Cities Program, Community Development Block Grant, 1988 Application Summary*, Application No. 88-PF-189, 1988, pg. 3 of 4. Kansas State Historical Society, Cultural Resources Division, Vertical Files.

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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Cheyenne County Courthouse
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The history of Cheyenne County reflects turbulent beginnings. The lure of inexpensive land brought the earliest Anglo-European settlers who were primarily of Germanic and Russian cultures, many of whom settled areas further east in Kansas before making their way to Cheyenne County. As late as the 1890s, inhabitants of Cheyenne County suffered from famine and drought. In March and April of 1895, the county purchased oats, wheat, millet, corn seed, barley, sorghum seed, and potatoes to be distributed for planting. They also distributed carloads of coal, clothing and food to the needy. These early inhabitants survived and prevailed at establishing thriving towns that were linked through a network of roads and bridges.

The county first operated out of a building in Bird City leased from D.W. Cave, Benjamin Bird, and Charles I. Kerndt for \$75 a month. In July 1888, the Board of Commissioners purchased the building for \$2,827.50. The use of this building proved to be temporary. In February 1889, voters moved the county seat to St. Francis where a new courthouse was to be constructed. By October 1889, a new 40-by-60-foot, two-story, wood, frame, Italianate style structure opened for occupancy. No longer extant, the building stood where the band shell now stands in the park east of the present courthouse.²

In 1924, the county erected the current Classical Revival style courthouse at a cost of \$163,921. The architectural firm of Thomas W. Williamson and Company designed the courthouse and the construction firm of Thomas D. Howard erected the courthouse. With the exception of the replacement of original window sashes and casements, and the installation of a handicapped accessible entrance, the building appears much the same as when it was first constructed in 1924.³

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Cheyenne County Courthouse is a significant under Criterion A for its associations with the second and third generation courthouses erected in a wave of new courthouse construction that occurred in the early twentieth century in Kansas. These buildings replaced aged and obsolete courthouse buildings erected in the state's earlier settlement period. Its location on a Courthouse Square is representative of one of the typical practices of locating county courthouses in Kansas on open space in the center of commercial areas.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Cheyenne County Courthouse is significant under Criterion C as an example of the Kansas county courthouses designed by Thomas W. Williamson. Williamson, who practiced architecture for 50 years beginning in 1912, is noted for the design of his public buildings.⁴ His large body of work is important as a reflection of the transitional period between the revival of classical or renaissance forms and the advent of the Modern Movement in public architecture in Kansas. The Cheyenne County Courthouse is one of 23 extant Classical Revival style courthouses built in Kansas after the end of World War I and the onset of the Great Depression. It is one of four courthouses in the State designed by the firm between 1917 and 1928. As a late example of his use of the style, this property conveys information about the progression of his use of the design idiom.

² Shirley Bailey, "Early County Government," (Date Unknown): 15-16. Kansas State Historical Society, Cultural Resources Division, Vertical Files.

³ Author Unknown, Handwritten Notes. Kansas State Historical Society, Cultural Resources Division, Vertical Files.

⁴ The career and work of Thomas W. Williamson is documented in the Multiple Property Form.

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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Cheyenne County Courthouse
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Williamson's courthouses are typically Classical Revival in style and feature buff brick or limestone masonry highlighted with limestone foundations, symmetrically placed columns at the primary façades, flat roofs and decorative parapet balustrades. Two of Williamson's four Kansas courthouses, including the Cheyenne County Courthouse, also display limestone clock encasements at the parapet wall above the primary entrance [*Figure 8: Representative Examples of Kansas Courthouses Designed by Williamson*]. The Cheyenne County Courthouse retains these exterior features and serves as a representative example of Williamson's Classical Revival style courthouses.

The Cheyenne County Courthouse is also architecturally significant for its retention of its original floor plan configuration and hierarchy of space, both of which are typical of many early twentieth century Kansas courthouses. Kansas courthouses of this period are generally defined by three or four floors, which have a hierarchy of functions that are located off a main corridor and accessed by one or more staircases. The ground floor is either at grade level or slightly sunken and houses the auxiliary functions such as the boiler room, facility manager's offices, toilets and storage. The finishes of this floor are often not as elaborate as the upper, more public floors. The first floor, which is the most highly utilized floor, is generally elevated from grade level and approached via an exterior grand staircase. The first floor houses offices frequently utilized by the public such as the county clerk, register of deeds, county treasurer, engineer, appraiser, and county commissioners' offices. The second floor houses the courtroom, judge's office, jury room, and the sheriff and court clerk's offices. The courtroom is nearly always on the opposite side of the primary entrance, facing the central grand staircase, and is 1½ or two stories in height. The third floor is typically not as obvious from the exterior and is occasionally part of the roofline. The third floor historically housed the jail, although many new sheriff and jail annexes replace those functions leaving space to expand in the original courthouse. The Cheyenne County Courthouse retains this hierarchy of space and the ground floor through third floor configurations, including the jail on the third floor, which is screened by a decorative parapet balustrade.

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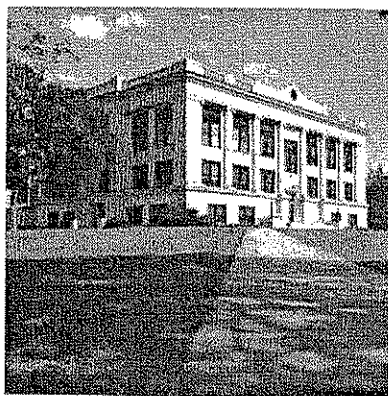
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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Cheyenne County Courthouse
St. Francis, Kansas

Figure 8: Representative Examples of Kansas Courthouses Designed by Williamson



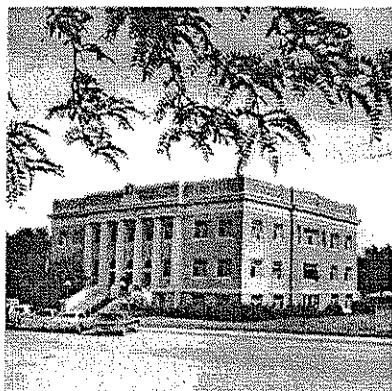
Sheridan County 1917–1918



Smith County 1918–1920



Jackson County 1919–1921



Cheyenne County 1924–1925

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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Cheyenne County Courthouse
St. Francis, Kansas

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Author Unknown, Handwritten Notes. Kansas State Historical Society, Cultural Resources Division, Vertical Files.

Cheyenne County, Economic Development. *State of Kansas, Department of Commerce, Kansas Small Cities Program, Community Development Block Grant, 1988 Application Summary*. Application No. 88-PF-189, 1988, pg. 3 of 4. Kansas State Historical Society, Cultural Resources Division, Vertical Files

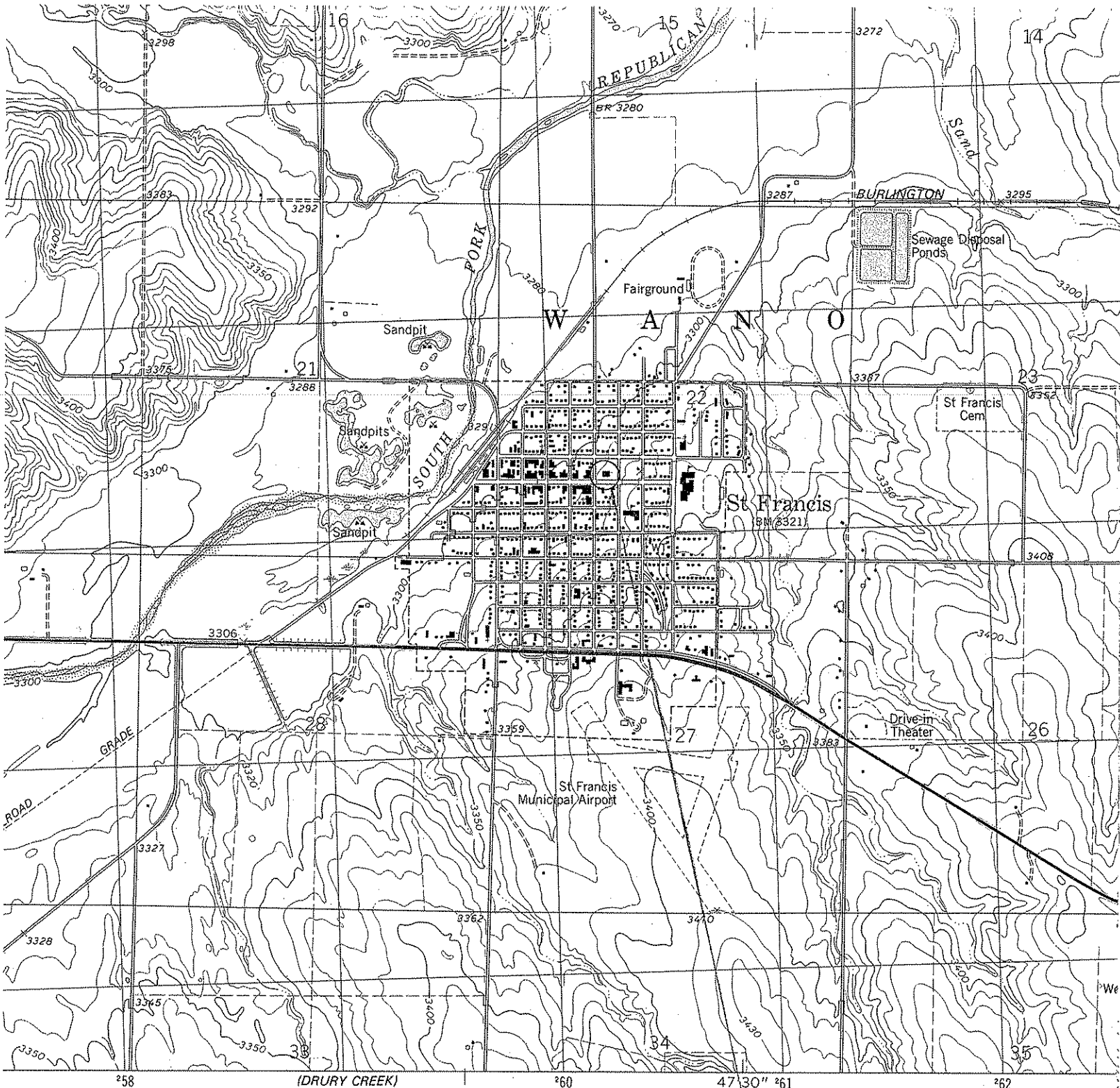
Bailey, Shirley. "Early County Government." (Date Unknown): 15-16. Kansas State Historical Society, Cultural Resources Division, Vertical Files.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property includes the entirety of Block 23 in the Original Town of St. Francis, Cheyenne County, Kansas and is bounded by the following: on the south, the northern boundary of Washington Street; on the west, the eastern boundary of Benton Street; on the north, the southern boundary of Jackson Street; and on the east, the western boundary of Denison Street.

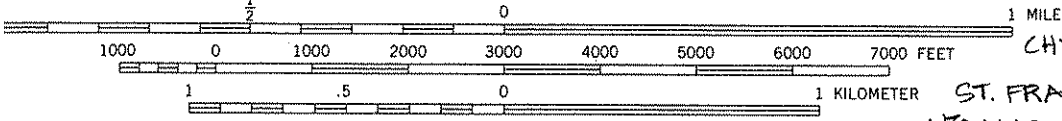
VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of the nominated property is based on the entirety of Block 23 for its traditional courthouse function. Natural boundaries are provided by Washington Street, Benton Street, Jackson Street, and Denison Street.



(DRURY CREEK)
5663 III NE

SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

CHYENNE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
ST. FRANCIS, CHYENNE CO., KANSAS
UTM NO: 14/260260/44106280



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
OR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66044
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST